

WORKSHOP

FEBRUARY 9, 1998

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, held a regular Workshop on Monday, February 9, 1998, at 8:30 a.m., in the Commission Boardroom of the Walton County Courthouse.

The following Board members were present: Chairman William A. Young, Vice-Chairman Van Ness Butler, Jr., Commissioner Joel Paul, Jr., Commissioner Randall Infinger and Commissioner Gordon Porter. Ronnie E. Bell, Administrative Supervisor, was also present.

Chairman Young called the meeting to order followed by pledging allegiance to the American Flag and prayer.

Mr. David Fleet, Assistant State Attorney, Shalimar, Florida, appeared before the Board to inform them of the current situation that exists with child abuse cases in Okaloosa and Walton Counties.

Mr. Fleet gave detailed information regarding the number of child abuse cases reported in comparison with the number of cases where arrests and convictions are actually made and asked the Commissioners for assistance in correcting the situation.

Mr. Fleet presented a film presentation showing a Children's Advocacy Center, which houses a variety of agencies, for abused children. The center provides a variety of resources in one location to prevent abused children from having to visit too many adult facilities, which may traumatize the child further. Mr. Fleet presented costs involved to fund a non care giver position for the Advocacy Center and the necessary operating supplies for fiscal year 1997-98 at \$30,564.

Ms. Cathy Chung, Coordinator, also spoke in favor of the Advocacy Center and stated that services could begin being immediately and a nurse could be hired.

The Commissioners agreed to assist in the requested funding in the amount of \$30,564 out of General Fund Contingencies. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mr. Art McLellen appeared before the Commissioners and requested the Board fund the expense of a court reporter for the Code Enforcement Board hearings. Mr. McLellen quoted a price of \$40 for the first hour and \$5 for each 15 minute increment thereafter from the reporter he spoke with. The Board requested Attorney Miller review the Florida Statute regarding the need

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for the presence of a court reporter.

The Board agreed to provide a Court Reporter for the Code Enforcement Board hearings and pay the expense from the Planning Budget during the 1997-98 fiscal year. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Ms. Byrd scheduled on the agenda to speak in reference to the Pavilion on Andalusia Avenue cancelled and did not appear.

Vice-Chairman Butler addressed the Commissioners regarding the situation with the pavilion and stated that he would like to see it moved. Commissioner Porter stated that the pavilion was placed there, but the location was never approved by the Board. Mr. Bell will check with Attorney Miller and report back to the Board.

Mr. Malcolm Patterson, Executive Director of the South Walton Tourist Development Council, presented the following policies for approval: Display and Distribution of Materials through the South Walton Visitors Information Center, Conference Room Availability, and South Walton Tourist Development Council Travel Gratuity Expense Reimbursement. The Board agreed to adopt these policies for the South Walton Tourist Development Council and placed this item on the consent agenda.

Mr. Patterson also presented a request for computer upgrades as follows: upgrade the WEB site in the amount of \$9,750, upgrade the Administrative Assistant's computer in the amount of \$8,800. Mr. Patterson stated that both of these expenditures will be funded by the TDC Bed Tax. The Board agreed and placed these items on the consent agenda.

The Board recessed briefly.

Mr. Shannon Johnson, District 1 resident, appeared before the Commissioners to request maintenance on a private driveway to allow the school bus and mail carrier access to the three families who reside on that driveway. Discussion was held regarding the garbage that has been dumped by area residents, which Mr. Johnson is attempting to cleaned up.

The Board agreed to provide a dumpster to assist Mr. Johnson with the clean-up process and approved for District 1 to perform one-time emergency maintenance on the driveway after the trash has been cleaned up. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mr. Jerry Fountain, Shop Manager/Purchasing Agent, presented an amortization pay off for the leased crane and requested the Board consider purchasing the crane at this time. Mr. Fountain stated that F & W

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Construction will be temporarily loaning the County a compressor because of damage to the compressor in the accident, however, the County will need to purchase a compressor because M.D. Moody and Sons, Inc. does not have another one to lease.

Commissioner Paul suggested to continue making lease payments on the crane until the new budget year and reconsider purchasing the crane at that time.

Commissioner Porter stated that he would like for someone to contact the local banking institutions and obtain the best interest rate for financing the crane for a four year period. The Board requested for a representative of the Clerk of Courts Office to check into financing for the crane.

The Board agreed to advertise for bids for one (1) compressor. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mr. Fountain presented the vehicle maintenance agreement between Walton County and Tri-County Community Council, Inc., for approval. The Board agreed to execute the agreement contingent upon Attorney Miller's review and approval. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mr. Fountain requested authorization to advertise for bids for one (1) computer system which will link the Building Department with the South Walton Building Department. This will be bid #98-102. The Board agreed and placed this item on the consent agenda.

Mr. Fountain informed the Board that the Sheriff's Department placed a car in the County auction in November, which was sold but never picked up by the buyer. Mr. Fountain requested authorization to sell the car and use the funds as the Sheriff's portion to purchase the brake lathe. The Commissioners agreed and placed this item on the consent agenda.

The Board agreed to waive the bid procedure and allow the Purchasing Department to purchase blank signs in lots of 100 for a price reduction. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mr. Fountain requested the Board waive the bid procedure for woven material and purchase six (6) rolls at a cost of \$495 each. Mr. Fountain stated that the material is used during bridge construction. The Board agreed to place this item on the consent agenda.

Mr. Fountain informed the Commissioners of an apparent problem with Preble-Rish, Engineering Services, Destin, Florida, not providing a material

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take-off portion on their plans. Mr. Fountain stated that Preble-Rish needs to provide that provision to allow for a reduction in the amount of materials being purchased.

Attorney Miller arrived.

Mr. Fountain informed the Commissioners that the paint shaker has been constructed. Vice-Chairman Butler stated that Mr. Williams, County Wide Paint Crew, informed him that he can only paint temporary lines and therefore would like to contract out the paint stripping. Chairman Young will check into the situation and report back to the Board.

Mrs. Diana Van Horn, DeFuniak Herald Breeze, appeared before the Board and requested approval to remove the old newspapers from the Clerk's Office and relocate them to the Herald Breeze Office for storage and stated that the newspapers will be available for public use. The Board agreed and placed this item on the consent agenda.

Chairman Young addressed the issue relating to the correspondence between himself and Mr. Dan Bodiford, Clerk of Courts, regarding revenue and expenditures in the Board of County Commissioner's accounts. Ms. Sara Comander, Administrative Assistant to the Clerk, advised the Commissioners that Mr. Bodiford was unable to attend today's meeting to answer questions, however, he would be available any day during the week ending February 20.

Chairman Young suggested the Board request a copy of all of the current bank statements relating to the Commissioner's accounts with balances of each account and the current interest rate on each account. Commissioner Infinger expressed concerns over funds not being posted into the individual road fund accounts in a timely manner, and not having up-to-date information.

Mr. Richard Whitaker appeared before the Board and presented copies of bank statements from Sun Trust which does not show the interest earned on either account.

The Board agreed to request the Auditor, Hilton Galloway of Carr, Riggs, and Ingram, LLP., to research the revenues and expenditures of the Board of County Commissioner's bank accounts, verify the accounting procedures of the Finance Department, and request the Clerk of Court provide copies of the current bank accounts with the interest rates of each account. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board scheduled a special meeting on Wednesday, February 18, at 8:30 a.m. to discuss financial concerns with Mr. Bodiford.

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Chairman Young called to order the special advertised meeting to negotiate with the Hydrologists.

Mr. Chuck Drake, Hartman and Associates, Inc., appeared before the Board as the number one ranked firm for HydroGeological services. Mr. Drake told the Commissioners that his firm can charge in a variety of ways, depending on the need of the client. They can present estimates for each job, work task by task, or can charge by the hour at a rate of \$50 per hour for field labor and \$75 per hour for a Project Manager. Mr. Drake stated that they do not charge mileage to and from the site, phone or travel expenses, and will only charge the direct cost for supplies with no additional mark up.

Commissioner Paul questioned Attorney Miller regarding the possibility of using other personnel on the staff of Hartman and Associates. Mr. Miller explained that the Request for Proposal that was sent out would have to include any services the Board would wish to use. Mr. Bell informed the Commissioners that the RFP was for HydroGeological services only.

Mr. Drake told the Commissioners that the additional charges over what the current HydroGeologist is charging Walton County is due to the amount of Liability Insurance that Hartman and Associates carries.

Discussion was held regarding the business location of Hartman and Associates and the travel time requirement to appear on the job site. Mr. Drake told the Board that they are currently in the process of relocating to the Walton County area.

Motion by Commissioner Infinger, second by Vice-Chairman Butler, to enter into a one year agreement with Hartman and Associates for HydroGeological services. Ayes 5, Naves 0. Porter Aye, Infinger Aye, Paul Aye, Butler Aye, Young Aye.

Vice-Chairman Butler informed the Commissioners that a semi-pro football team has scheduled to play at Helen McCall Park and voiced his concerns with the County's liability and the damage to the little league field that may occur. Mr. Bell will research the issue and report back to the Board.

Chairman Young informed the Commissioners of a letter from the Auditor General which stated that a pre-audit team will be meeting prior to the audit which is scheduled to begin about March 1, 1998.

Mr. Matt Douglass, EMS Director, presented a Request for

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Matching Grant Distribution form for the Chairman's signature. The Board agreed and placed this item on the consent agenda.

Mr. Douglass also presented a request for the Chairman's signature to authorize the EMS chassis to be mounted by Excellence. The Board agreed and placed this item on the consent agenda.

The Board approved travel expenditures for one mechanic and one EMS employee for the purpose of delivering the chassis to Excellence. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board approved for Mr. Douglass to attend the Florida Association of County Emergency Medical Services Quarterly Meeting in Tallahassee, April 8, 1998, and a second meeting on April 9, 1998 while in Tallahassee. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board approved payment of an invoice to J. David Holder in the amount of \$532 for Attorney's fees for a Guardian ad-litem case. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board approved to pay \$450 for indigent burial for Mr. Rocky Brown subject to determining indigency. Mr. Bell will contact the funeral home in charge of arrangements to verify indigency. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mrs. Martha Ingle, Budget Officer, presented the following budget amendments for approval: 1. Amend the General Fund Revenues with \$11,692 from Florida League of Cities and Repair and Maintenance in the amount of \$11,692 to be used toward repairs to the 911 equipment caused by lighting damage located at the EOC Building. 2. Amend the General Fund Revenues with HOME Program Revenues in the amount of \$50,108 and Other Current Charges HOME Program \$50,108. 3. Amend the County Transportation Trust Revenues and Expenditures in the amount of \$149,127 for materials to construct the Blue Ridge Road. 4. Amend \$3,528 into the CDBG Streets Revenues for funds received from the State and amend the \$3,528 into the Administration CDBG Streets.

The Board agreed to adopt a resolution amending the requested budgets. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mrs. Ingle also presented the following requests for budget amendments: 1. Transfer \$19,613 from Ambulance Billing into the Board of County Commissioners: Salaries, FICA, Retirement and Travel to cover the salary, matching benefits and travel for the Ambulance Billing Clerk. 2. Transfer \$1,000 from the Board of County Commissioners/Other Current Charges into the

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Beach Restoration/Repair and Maintenance. 3. Transfer \$65 from the Board of County Commissioners/Professional into the Ecosystem/Office Supply. 4. Transfer \$6,572 from County Transportation Trust Contingencies into the Retirement (payment to the Division of Retirement for Freddy Bishop's service as ferry operator). 5. Transfer \$78,205 from County Transportation Trust Contingencies into the County Wide Machinery and Equipment to purchase the used rubber tire roller.

The Commissioners agreed to the requested amendments and placed this item on the consent agenda.

Mrs. Angie Biddle, Grants Coordinator, appeared before the Commissioners and presented a list of prioritized roads for their consideration for the 1998 CDBG Grant through the neighborhood revitalization program and explained the method of considering these roads for the grant. The following is the list of roads presented for consideration: District 1; Bell Dawson Road, E. Section of Magnolia Road, Caty Hole Road, Hermitage Road, Hope Road, Josephine Road, J.W. Hollington Road. District 2; Double Bridges Road, Cook Road, Section of Sandspur Road, Mims Road, Coy Ellis Road. District 3; Holly Tree Lane, Windy Hill Road, Bass Haven Drive. District 4; Huckaba Road, Howard Street, Magnolia Road (Choctaw), a section of Girl Scout Road, N. Section of Laird Road. District 5; Churchhill Bayou Road, Indian Woman Road, J.D. Miller Road, Fluffy Landing Road, Trout Circle, Red Fish Road. Mrs. Biddle stated that Walton County is eligible to apply for \$750,000 this year.

The Board approved the list of roads and placed this item on the consent agenda.

Mrs. Biddle also presented the names of the current Citizens Advisory Committee and asked the Board to make any necessary changes so the committee can meet as soon as possible.

Chairman Young stated that he has plans to pave six-tenths of a mile on Sandspur Road and asked the Board to consider allowing him to piggy back off of the Oakgrove Road project. Commissioner Porter suggested waiting until the bid opening for Long Road and Richardson Road and then consider the best alternative. Mr. Young agreed.

The Board approved a request for Angie Biddle to attend the Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program Workshop in Tallahassee, February 25-26, 1998. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

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The Board approved the following list of bills for payment:

CTT	\$ 78,835.39
G.F.	40,441.95
SHIP	18.38
Debt Serv.	561.67
TDC	957.01
N.W. Msq. Control	478.46
Library	7,033.90
Rec. Plat Fee	22,250.00
Solid Waste	164,381.73
Mossy Head VFD	1,299.26
Darlington VFD	120.00
Liberty VFD	852.77
Red Bay VFD	391.14
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	\$317,621.66

This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board approved for District 4 to install street lights in the Choctaw area on U.S. Highway 20 at three different intersections. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mrs. Shirl Williams, Assistant Administrative Supervisor, presented a request from William S. Frost, Jr., for a one time, one-year extension on the Development Order for Kylie's Cove Subdivision pending further information from the Corps. of Engineers.

Mrs. Williams also presented a request from Jim Wellborn for a one time, one-year extension for the Development Order for Ciboney Condominiums, Destin, Florida.

The Board agreed to grant both requests and placed this item on the consent agenda.

The Board agreed to adopt a resolution accepting roads for maintenance in the Oakridge Subdivision, District 4. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mrs. Williams presented a letter from Mr. David Proctor, Site Acquisition Specialist for Ausley Harvell Group, Inc., Tallahassee, Florida, requesting a variance to the Telecommunication Moratorium. Mrs. Williams stated that his application was not submitted prior to placing the moratorium in effect and that the proposed site location has since changed.

Commissioner Paul stated that he would like to attend the legislative sessions first and also discuss with other counties some problems they may face with towers before approving any variances. The Commissioners agreed and denied the request.

The Board approved for the Personnel Committee, Martha Ingle, Lynda Robinson, Shirl Williams, and Commissioner Paul, to attend "The Interviewing and Selection Process" Workshop in Fort Walton Beach, Florida, February 12,

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1998. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mrs. Williams questioned the Board regarding the issuance of beach vehicle permit exemptions and temporary permits. Vice-Chairman Butler stated that no one is exempt from obtaining a permit when driving on the beach and must show proof of at least a temporary permit. The Board agreed that everyone applying for a beach permit must fill out an application with pictures of the vehicle and a copy of their driver's license. Anyone applying for a handicap permit must show proof of disability from their physician, which includes the applicants name and length of disability. The Board agreed that all requests for exemptions or temporary vehicle beach permits be approved by Vice-Chairman Butler and also authorized Mr. Malcolm Patterson the authority to grant temporary vehicle beach permits.

The Board agreed to purchase name plates and a transcription machine for the Code Enforcement Board and the Design Review Board. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mrs. Williams presented a new fee schedule, a fifty percent increase, for development reviews after researching the surrounding counties fees. The Board agreed to adopt a resolution adopting the new fees effective March 1, 1998. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board approved for Mr. Tommy Stephens, Mosquito Control Director, and his staff, to attend the Southeast Regional Public Health Pest and Vector Management Conference in Panama City, March 24 thru 26, 1998. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board agreed to establish the position of Field Assistant, District 5, at a beginning salary of \$12.00 per hour, and approve the job description. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mr. Bell informed the Commissioners that Wal-Mart accepted their offer of \$777,500 for the old Wal-Mart Building and are in the process of drafting a contract. Attorney Miller advised that a public hearing would be required before the final purchase is made.

Mr. Bell presented a copy of the Proposed Modification Agreement to the Hazard Mitigation Grant Agreement between Walton County and the Department of Community Affairs to fund phase II of the acquisition project to purchase seventeen (17) properties that were flooded in 1994 by Tropical Storm Alberto.

The Board approved the agreement and authorized Chairman Young to

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execute the document. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board approved payment of an invoice to Gulf Power in the amount of \$83,216 from Driftwood monies. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board approved for the Veteran's Office to install two (2) dedicated computer lines at \$95 per line to be paid out of the Veteran Administration's budget. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Mr. Bell stated that the escrow agreement between Walton County and Healthmark is being prepared and will be ready for execution tomorrow. The Clerk's Office contacted the banks in DeFuniak and Barnett Bank has the highest interest rate, 6 1/4%, and has no penalty for early withdrawal. After discussion regarding interest rates, the Commissioners agreed for the Clerk of Court to contact all of the banking institutions in Walton County to find the highest rate and best terms available to deposit the \$500,000 into a Certificate of Deposit for Healthmark. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Vice-Chairman Butler requested Ms. Comander also contact the banks in South Walton County and will provide a list of bank names.

Mr. Bell informed the Board that he and Mr. Miller would like to meet with West Florida Regional Planning Council on site at the home of Faye Fountain's mother to prepare a list of needed repairs. Mr. Bell requested approval to waive the bid procedure and contract with an outside contractor for repairs and pay for the repairs out of the SHIP Program with an estimated cost of \$4,000 - \$4,500. Mr. Bell also requested for District 5 to make necessary repairs to a drain pipe located on the property. The Board agreed and placed this item on the consent agenda.

Discussion was held regarding the personnel policy relating to overtime. Mr. Bell stated that the Labor Attorney sent information stating that the Board of County Commissioners can have the option to offer compensatory time or overtime and suggested removing the portion of the personnel policies relating to fringe benefits, page 7 line 3, because fringe benefits are not paid on overtime.

The Commissioners discussed changing the policy to create the best situation possible for each district. The Commissioners agreed to continue looking at the situation and consider making any changes at a later date.

Commissioner Infinger stated that District 2 and District 3 purchased a

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TV/VCR for training and will make it available to the other districts if they wish to use it.

Mr. Bell reminded the Commissioners that the evaluation on Mr. Jerry Fountain is pending a decision. The Board agreed to discuss this issue further tomorrow.

Chairman Young questioned the current contract with Cumba Enterprises for white good services at the landfill. Mr. Bell stated that the contract provides for immediate termination should either party request.

The Board agreed to advertise for Requests for Proposals for white good services at the Walton County Landfill. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

Commissioner Infinger stated that he received a letter of complaint from a resident of District 3 because he would not deliver a load of dirt for private use. The Commissioners agreed that Mr. Infinger followed proper procedures and the letter was out of order.

Discussion was held regarding the Mott sign truck and donating it to the Darlington Volunteer Fire Department. A decision will be made pending further discussion at a later date.

Commissioner Porter informed the Board that the Evaluation Appraisal Report for Mossy Head Waterworks is not complete and will not be submitted to the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) before the deadline. Mrs. Shirl Williams will check into the situation.

The Board approved for District 5 to perform emergency maintenance on Shellcracker Road and two other roads in the same vicinity. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

The Board approved to waive the bid procedure and allow District 5 to contract with Gulf Coast Traffic Engineering for paint stripping in the amount of \$6,867.50. This item will be placed on the consent agenda.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

APPROVED: _____

William A. Young, Chairman

ATTEST: _____

Dan Bodiford, Clerk